

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant proposes to amend Claim 1 and cancel Claims 11-12. Claim 2 has been canceled by the previous amendment. Upon entry of the proposed amendment, Claims 1 and 3-10 will remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim.

The Examiner objected to Claim 1 because of a minor informality. Applicant has amended Claim 1 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Specifically, the term "design" has been corrected to read --designed--.

In the recent Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 3-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knoll (U.S. Patent No. 5,791,667) in view of Calender (U.S. Patent No. 6,386,560) and Edhart (U.S. 2,660,446). The Examiner indicated that Claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 12 and intervening Claim 11. The incorporated claims have been canceled. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 1 and corresponding dependent Claims 3-10 are allowable over the prior art of record.

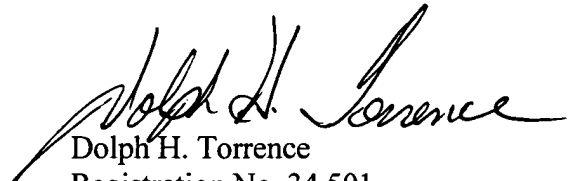
Application Serial No.: 10/713,040
Art Unit: 3618

Attorney Docket No. 20607.00
Confirmation No. 1144

Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed amendments made herein properly respond to the outstanding Final Rejection and represent a *bona fide* effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application. Care has been exercised to ensure that no new matter has been introduced and that no new issues have been raised that would require further consideration or search. It is felt that no inordinate amount of time will be required on the part of the Examiner to review and consider this amendment. Accordingly, entry of the proposed amendment is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,


Dolph H. Torrence
Registration No. 34,501
(703) 486-1000